श्रम मंत्री (डा. सत्यनारायण जटिया) : (क) 1991 की जनगणना के अनुसार, देश में कार्य करने वाले बच्चों की संख्या 11.28 मिलियन थी।

(ख) और (ग) जोखिमकारी व्यवसायों में कार्यरत बच्चों का एक परियोजना आधारित दृष्टिकोण के माध्यम से पुनर्वास के लिए अगस्त, 1994 में एक महत्वपूर्ण कार्यक्रम की घोषणा की गयी थी । घोषणा की अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई के रुप में, अनेक कदम उठाए गए हैं, जिनमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ, राष्ट्रीय बाल श्रम परियोजनाओं की स्थापना किया जाना शामिल है । परियोजनाओं के अंतर्गात, अनौपचारिक शिक्षा, व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण, पोषणा-हार, स्वास्थ्य देख-रेख वजीपा आदि मुहैया करवाए जाने के लिए विशेष स्कूल खोले जाते हैं । जोखिमकारी व्यवसायों मेम कार्यरत बच्चों के पूनर्वास के लिए अभी तक 76 परियोजनाओं की मंजूरी प्रदान की गयी है।

बाल श्रम एक ऐसी सामाजिक-आर्थिक समस्या है जिसकी जड़ें बहुत गहराई तक हैं और जिसके लिए एक लम्बी अवधि तक सतत् प्रयास किए जाने की आवश्यकता है । अतः बाल श्रम के पूर्न उन्मूलन के लिए कोई निश्चित समय-सीमा निर्धारित नहीं की जा सकती।

Labour based technology and unemployment

508. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: DR. MOHAN BABU.

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage labour based technology for removing unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The Approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Productive employment is an important dimension of the state policy that seeks to achieve growth with equity. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment. Improvements in the quality of employment can be achieved only in a situation of rapidly growing productivity to which the labour can lay a just claim. Education and skill development will empower people to take advantage of employment opportunities. Special programmes will be implemented to develop skills, enhance technological levels and provide marketing channels for people engaged in traditional occupations.

Indian workers in Gulf countries

509. SHRIMATI KAMLASINHA:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian citizens who have since returned to the country from the Gulf countries under the amnesty scheme;

(b) the estimated number of Indian workers still working in the Gulf countries;

(c) what is Government's existing policy for the export of man-power;

(d) whether Government contemplate any change in the existing policy to protect the interests of Indian labour in other countries; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) According to the available information, the number of Indian citizens who have since returned to India from the Gulf countries under the amnesty schemes are as below :—

1.	UAE	60,000
2.	Kuwait	2,500
3.	Saudi Arabia	50,000
4.	Bahrain	3,132
5.	Qatar	800
6.	Oman	5,576

(b) The estimated number of Indian nationals residing in the Gulf countries:

1.	UAE	12,00,000
2.	Kuwait	2,62,000
3.	Saudi Arabia	14,00,000
4.	Bahrain	1,40,000
5.	Qatar	90,000
6.	Yeman	5,000 to 6,000
7.	Oman	3,00,000
8.	Baghdad	14

(c) Deployment of Indian workers abroad on contractual employment is regulated by the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and the rules framed thereunder. Under this Act, all intending emigrants having 'Emigration Check Required' endorsement on their passports are required to furnish through registered recruiting agents, demand letters, power of attorney and employment contract, duly attested by Indian mission in the country of employment. Emigration clearance is granted after thorough scrutiny of these documents by the concerned Protector of Emigrants.

The emigration procedure was simplified with effect from 4th October, 1991. Under the revised procedure, the emigrants falling under any of the following six additional categories of 'Emigration Check Not Required' are given emigration clearance after submission of an affidavit by the registered recruiting agent to the effect that the workers actually belong to these categories and that they have been trade-tested for work for which they will be deployed by the foreign employer:—

(i) Supervisors (all professions); (ii) Skilled workers (all professions); (iii) Semi-Skilled workers (all professions); (iv) Light/Medium/Heavy Vehicle Drivers; (v) Clerical workers of all categories including Stenographers, Storekeepers, time-keepers, typists etc.;

(vi) Cooks excluding those who seek employment in household duties (as cooks).

(d) and (e) The Government is considering a proposal for setting up of a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council and Constitution of a Welfare Fund for the emigrant workers.

Jobless Persons in North-Eastern States

510. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jobless persons registered with various Employment Exchanges in the North-Eastern States, State-wise;

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to provide employment to these persons in the near future;

(c) whether Government propose to provide special grants to these States to give unemployment allowance to the jobless youth of these States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATJYA): (a) The number of job-seekers all of whom are not necessarily unemployed who were on the live register of employment exchanges In North Eastern States as on 31-12-1997 is indicated below:—

	States	No. in Thousand
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.8
2.	Assam	1475.0
3.	Manipur	318.1
4.	Meghalaya	34.4
5.	Mizoram	67.9
6.	Nagaland	21.7
7.	Sikkim	*
8.	Tripura	212.5

*No employment exchange is functioning in Sikkim.

(b) The Approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate
productive employment and eradication of poverty.

Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

(c) and (d)'There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.